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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

NORTHEAST CONTINUES TRADE DESPITE WINTER;
PEI-1' NG PRIVATE INDUSTRY EXPANDS

TA-LIEN OPENED TO FOREIGN TRADE -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 11 Feb 50

Hong Kong, 3 March -- According to a Hong Kong merchant trading with Ta-lien, the winter closing of a number of Manchurian ports did not slow the trade with that area due to the opening of the ice-free port of Ta-lien to foreign trade.

The steamship I-chih-mei, just returned from a trip, brought a heavy cargo of soya beans and bean cakes. The Northeast authorities have established minimum prices. The minimum price for beans is 59 Hong Kong dollars per picul and for bean cakes 39 dollars per picul.

The Northeast authorities have a contract with Japanese buyers to supply 15,000 tons of beans with an oil quality of 16.5 units at a basic price of 130 US dollars per ton. A dollar per ton is to be added for each unit of oil quality above 16.5, with 18 as the upper limit. The beans of the 1949 crop are above standard in quality.

The Northeast requires imports of industrial raw materials. There has just arrived in Hong Kong a shipment of several tens of thousands of bales of US cotton, which will soon be shipped to Ta-lien where it will bring 26 US cents a pound.

NORTHEAST CRITICIZES PRODUCTION -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 13 Mar 50

Shen-yang (Hsin-hua) -- The Ministry of Industry of the Northeast People's Government opened a conference on 4 February 1950 to consider expansion of the work of the ministry.

Reports were received from 33 industries which showed that 19 of these industries had exceeded their January quotas by from 8 to 54 percent. The others had not reached their goals. Among those exceeding their quotas were the coal, copper, lead, cement, cotton cloth, and cotton yarn industries. The men responsible for the industries which failed to meet their quotas proceeded to exercise self-criticism at the meeting.

- 1 -

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There was considerable criticism of the lag in agricultural production.

NORTHEAST ANNOUNCES BOND RETIREMENT -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 11 Mar 50

Shen-yang, 3 March -- The Northeast authorities have announced a drawing on 20 - 21 February in Shen-yang (Mukden) to determine the numbers of the 1949 Production and Construction Commodity Unit Premium Bonds to be retired in 1950. The bonds were issued under a plan of complete retirement in 3 years, one-third each year. The bonds are interest-bearing and carry premiums for holders with lucky numbers.

The original plan was for an issue of 6 million units, but because of the enthusiastic buying response of the public, a total of 8,314,747 units was issued.

Redemption of the bonds for those holding the numbers drawn for retirement in 1950 may be secured by presenting them at any branch of the Northeast Bank. Interest to date and premiums for lucky numbers will be paid at the same time as the principal.

5,002 FACTORIES IN PEI-P'ING -- Wen-hui Pao, 16 Feb 50

Private industry in Pei-p'ing underwent a large measure of rehabilitation and recovery in 1949. Factories now number 5,002, as compared with 2,851 for December 1948, before liberation. These figures do not include artisans and handicraft shops. Workers in private factories total 29,761, an increase of 40 percent.

Machinery plants and ironworks have increased from 745 to 1,018, employing double the previous number of workers. These plants produced, among other things, a total of 7,900 water wheels.

Flour mill workers have increased by 59 percent and milling machines by 43 percent. The industry produced 2,300,000 bags of flour in 1949, doubling 1948 production.

The rubber industry also increased its output, but several industries, such as the paper and match industries, could not exceed 1948 standards because of material shortages or ineffectual sales promotion. The soap and needlework industries are also not faring as well as other industries.

Aside from these, several large chemical works have been newly established in Pei-p'ing, such as paint factories and medical laboratories.

MAY FORBID POSSESSION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 20 Feb 50

Kuang-chou, 19 February -- Due to the falling value of people's currency and the violent fluctuations of the market in this city, merchants are all afraid of making commitments in people's currency. There is a constant tendency to exchange it for Hong Kong currency in the black market. Because of the preference of the people for Hong Kong money, it has not declined in value despite the prohibition of its circulation.

The CCP government of Kuang-chou has forbidden the circulation of foreign currencies in order to secure firmer control over foreign exchange and to implement its general economic policies in the area. It has found the people of Kuang-chou to be of a different caliber than those of other regions, and so finds it necessary to resort to sterner measures to control them.

- 2 -

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It is now reported that the authorities are preparing an order requiring that all persons possessing Hong Kong currency exchange it for people's currency within a limited time and forbidding anyone to have any foreign currency in his possession. The authorities are, however, giving some study to the matter of whether a ruthless policy might not have a really undesirable effect upon the attitude of the business community. There is some reason to believe that it might result in a general business strike.

CURRENCY PROHIBITION CAUSES PANIC -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 20 Feb 50

Shih-ch'i, 19 February -- Since the order to cease using Hong Kong currency in trade became known in Chung-shan Hsien, merchants have been thrown into panic and have been (1) dispersing their goods to various places, (2) telling customers that they are out of requested items, or (3) putting prices up about 1,000 percent so that people will be discouraged from buying.

The reason for these tactics is that in the past Hong Kong currency has been the basis of all price computations, and merchants now have no idea how to price their goods in people's currency.

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- 3 -

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